2013 Montana Government IT Conference

Key Note Speaker: Howard A.Schmidt

Howard Schmidt serves as a partner in the strategic advisory firm, Ridge Schmidt Cyber, an executive services firm that helps leaders in business and government navigate the increasing demands of cybersecurity. He serves in this position with Tom Ridge, the first secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. He also serves as executive director of The Software Assurance Forum for Excellence in Code (SAFECode).

Howard A. Schmidt brings together talents in business, defense, intelligence, law enforcement, privacy, academia and international relations, gained from a distinguished career spanning 40 years.

He served as Special Assistant to the President and the Cybersecurity Coordinator for the federal government. In this role Mr. Schmidt was responsible for coordinating interagency cybersecurity policy development and implementation and for coordinating engagement with federal, state, local, international, and private sector cybersecurity partners.

Previously, Mr. Schmidt was the President and CEO of the Information Security Forum (ISF). Before ISF, he served as Vice President and Chief Information Security Officer and Chief Security Strategist for eBay Inc., and formerly operated as the Chief Security Officer for Microsoft Corp. He also served as Chief Security Strategist for the US-CERT Partners Program for the Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. Schmidt also brings to bear over 26 years of military service. Beginning active duty with the Air Force, he later joined the Arizona Air National Guard. With the AF he served in a number of military and civilian roles culminating as Supervisory Special Agent with the Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI). He finished his last 12 years as an Army Reserve Special Agent with Criminal Investigation Division's (CID) Computer Crime Unit, all while serving over a decade as police officer with the Chandler Police Department.

Mr. Schmidt holds a bachelor's degree in business administration (BSBA) and a master's degree in organizational management (MAOM) from the University of Phoenix. He also holds an Honorary Doctorate degree in Humane Letters. Howard was an Adjunct Professor at GA Tech, GTISC, Professor of Research at Idaho State University and Adjunct Distinguished Fellow with Carnegie Mellon's CyLab and a Distinguished Fellow of the Ponemon Privacy Institute.

Keynote Summary

Keynote Topic: "Cyber Security: Where are We Headed?"

Keynote Speaker: Howard Schmidt, Ridge Schmidt Cyber

Security veteran Howard Schmidt, who has headed up cyber security at Microsoft, EBay, and the White House, will share his thoughts on the state of security in this fireside chat. He will comment on what he sees as the main cyber threats facing the U.S. on a global level, and what vulnerabilities we need to keep an eye on in the future. He will answer questions posed from a local and global perspective. This talk will showcase the extraordinary breadth and depth of Professor Schmidt's knowledge, and leave you with unexpected insights on what security issues affect your organization.